

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 17740 220626Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W  
-----017042 220627Z /21/14

R 210740Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6574  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17740

SY CHANNEL

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR REFERENCE)

HONG KONG FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: COMPROMISE OF CONFIDENTIAL CABLE

REF: HONG KONG 7782

1. INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BANGKOK JUNE 20 PER REFTTEL, AND  
CONCLUSION REACHED THAT THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT  
BANGKOK 17041 COMPROMISED BY PERSONNEL THIS POST.

2. INVESTIGATION INDICATES SETH LIPSKY NOT SPECIFICALLY  
RECALLED BY MEMBERS OF POLITICAL SECTION, INCLUDING  
AUTHOR OF THE COMPROMISED CABLE, POLITICAL OFFICER DESAIX  
ANDERSON.

3. ANDERSON ADVISED HE SPOKE WITH A MR. BARRY KRAMER,  
A CORRESPONDENT WITH THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL,  
DURING KRAMER'S VISIT TO THE BANGKOK EMBASSY ON JUNE 7, ONE  
DAY PRIOR TO DRAFTING COMPROMISED CABLE BANGKOK 17041 BUT  
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DENIED ANY SUBSEQUENT ASSOCIATION, ADDING THAT WHILE  
HAVING A "WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
POLITICAL ISSUES" IN HIS ROLE AS A POLITICAL OFFICER,  
HE DISCUSSED NO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITH KRAMER AND  
REVEALED NOTHING CONCERNING HIS INTENTION TO DRAFT A  
CONFIDENTIAL CABLE DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT OF FUTURE  
U.S.-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS.

4. FURTHER INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT THE COMPROMISED CABLE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN "LEAKED" FROM ANY SOURCE IN BANGKOK PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF A FINAL DRAFTING SESSION ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR THOMAS F. CONLON IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 14.

5. THIS CONCLUSION IS PREDICATED ON THE BASIS OF TESTIMONY BY BOTH POLITICAL COUNSELOR CONLON AND POLITICAL OFFICER ANDERSON WHICH INDICATES THAT IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS QUOTES EXTRACTED FROM THE UNADULTERATED TEXT OF THE INITIAL DRAFT PREPARED ON JUNE 8 BY ANDERSON, THERE ARE THREE QUOTES CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL OF JUNE 19 THAT RELATE DIRECTLY TO INTELLIGENCE CONTAINED NOT IN THE TEXT OF THE INITIAL DRAFT PREPARED BY ANDERSON, BUT RATHER TO INFORMATION SUBSEQUENTLY DRAFTED BY AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR CONLON ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 14, THE DATE OF THE TELEGRAM'S TRANSMISSION.

6. WHILE THE TESTIMONY OF CONLON AND ANDERSON SUFFICES TO PRECLUDE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY COMPROMISE OF BANGKOK CONFIDENTIAL CABLE 17041 PRIOR TO JUNE 14, AND WHILE ONE ENCOUNTERS AN INVESTIGATIVE CUL-DE-SAC IN LIGHT OF THE CABLE'S WIDE IN-COUNTRY AND WORLDWIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISTRIBUTION INITIATED ON THAT DATE, A SECOND CONSIDERATION DOES SUFFICE TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE COMPROMISED CABLE WERE NOT "LEAKED" FROM BANGKOK.

7. THROUGHOUT THE ARTICLE CONTAINED IN THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL AUTHOR SETH LIPSKY CONTINUALLY REFERS TO "MR. WHITEHOUSE'S CABLE," OR THE "CONFIDENTIAL CABLE FROM THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE." IF LIPSKY HAD OBTAINED POSSESSION OF A COPY OF OUTGOING BANGKOK 17041 MESSAGE, IN ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OF THE DRAFTING OFFICER, HE WOULD HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE NAME ANDERSON ALONG WITH A COMBINATION OF OTHER NAMES LISTED AS INDIVIDUALS APPROVING THE DRAFT. HOWEVER, ARMED WITH THE INCOMING TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC COPY OF CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK MESSAGE 17041 AS RECEIVED AT ANOTHER POST, ONLY THE NAME WHITEHOUSE WOULD APPEAR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TELEGRAM.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** SY  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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